

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 NEA-10 EA-07 IO-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 MMO-01 /100 R

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R 272151Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020351

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: XO, US, UK

SUBJECT: PUBLICITY ON DIEGO GARCIA AGREEMENT

REF: LONDON 01141

1. WE AGREE THAT US AND UK SHOULD DEVELOP PRESS GUIDANCE FOR DIEGO GARCIA AGREEMENT AND HAVE GIVEN PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT TO BRITISH EMBASSY (MILLINGTON). IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN REFTTEL:

A. WE BELIEVE WE CANNOT AVOID PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WHEN AGREEMENT IS SIGNED. WE SUGGESTED TO BRITISH EMBASSY THAT BRITISH PROPOSE AND COORDINATE WITH US WORDING OF JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE ISSUED IN LONDON ON DATE OF SIGNING, AND ALSO FOLLOW-UP PRESS GUIDANCE.

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B. UNDER CASE ACT, WE MUST SUBMIT AGREEMENT TO CONGRESS
WITHIN 60 DAYS OF SIGNATURE. ASSUMING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
AT TIME OF SIGNING, WE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PLAN ANNOUNCE-
MENT WHEN AGREEMENT SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS.

C. WE SEE SOME ADVANTAGE TO SUBMITTING AGREEMENT TO CONGRESS
PROMPTLY AFTER SIGNATURE, TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF FOOT-
DRAGGING ON A SENSITIVE ISSUE. HOWEVER, WE FULLY RECOGNIZE

BRITISH CONCERNS AND WOULD BE WILLING, WITHIN LIMITS IM-
POSED BY CASE ACT, TO COORDINATE TIMING OF SUBMISSION TO
CONGRESS WITH SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENT, IF BRITISH DESIRE.
OF COURSE, PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF SIGNING WILL STIMULATE
INQUIRIES FROM CONGRESS, IN WHICH EVENT EARLIEST POSSIBLE
FORMAL SUBMISSION UNDER CASE ACT WOULD APPEAR ADVANTAGEOUS.
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